



For Immediate Release

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MATFORCE Sponsors Dump the Drugs Event April 28th with 8 Locations County-wide

A Dump the Drugs event will be held on April 28 in 8 locations county-wide, including Prescott, Prescott Valley, Chino Valley, Williamson Valley, Cottonwood, Sedona, Camp Verde and Beaver Creek.

Prescription drug abuse is at epidemic proportions. MATFORCE and area law enforcement are joining with the National Prescription Drug Take-Back campaign to gather and safely dispose of unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medication.

MATFORCE is helping sponsor the event as part of their "Prescription Drug Abuse: Who's Counting?" campaign. Counting the numbers of deaths is alarming as drug overdose is now the second leading cause of accidental death in the United States. Prescription pain killers result in more accidental drug overdoses than cocaine and heroin combined.

According to a Center for Disease Control study from 2000 to 2009, an accidental death among kids has declined. But the report also states that "Prescription drug misuse largely contributed to a 91% increase in poisoning deaths among teenagers ages 15 to 19." In Yavapai County one out of every four 10th and 12th grade students reports abusing prescription pain killers according to the 2010 Arizona Youth Survey.

Karen Woods, a local mother who lost her teenage son to an accidental overdose in 2007, said, "I would like to remind parents that prescription drugs abuse is currently a silent epidemic. Prescription drug use is dangerous. Kids mistakenly believe pills are safe because they are prescribed by doctors. But prescription drugs, when not used properly, can be fatal. As I have learned in losing my son, no one is guaranteed a lifetime in this world, not even our children. One horrible mistake can result in a fatal tragedy. Please DUMP your DRUGS on April 28th! Your children will thank you....and I thank you."

Collecting unwanted medication not only keeps potentially dangerous drugs out of the wrong hands, but safe disposal also keeps drugs from being improperly disposed of and getting into our water systems

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In the greater Prescott area, prescription and over-the-counter medications can be dropped off between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM at the following locations: Prescott Police Department, 222 S. Marina; Prescott Valley Police Department, 7601 E. Civic Circle; Chino Valley Police Dept, 1020 W. Palomino Rd. and Yavapai County Sheriff's Office Williamson Valley Substation, 4155 W. Outer Loop Road, Suite B.

In the Verde Valley, prescription and over-the-counter medications can be dropped off between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM at the following locations: Sedona Police Department, 100 Roadrunner Drive ; Cottonwood Police Department, 199 S. 6th Street; and the Camp Verde Marshal's Office at 646 S. First Street and the Beaver Creek Adult Center, 4250 E. Zuni Way, Lake Montezuma.

MATFORCE encourages everyone to look through your medicine cabinet for expired or unwanted medication and bring it to one of the drop-off locations. For more information call 928-708-0100 or visit the MATFORCE website at matforce.org.

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Photo #1 caption: MATFORCE is sponsoring 8 disposal locations countywide as part of National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day on April 28.



Photo #2 caption: Karen Woods, a local Mom who lost her son to an accidental overdose, reminds parents that prescription drug abuse is a silent epidemic.

